

A BRIEF ANSWER,
To the most materiall Heads of that
strange and prodigious Remonstrance.
CALLED, A

REMONSTRANCE OF HIS EXCELLENCIE,

Lord THOMAS FAIRFAX, And the
Generall Councell of Officers, held
at St. Albanes, Novemb. 16.

And Presented to the Commons, sitting at Westminster,
Novemb. 20. 1648.

*The Noble-men of Zion (or England) comparable to fine Gold,
how are they esteemed as earthen Pitchers. Lamen. 4. 2.
The breath of our nostrils, the Anoynted of the Lord, (our most
pious Sovereigne K. CHARLES) is taken in the net. vers. 20.
Turne thou us unto thee (O Lord) and we shall be turned, re-
new our dayes as of old. Chap. 5. 22.*

So may we see (at length) a just retalliating vengeance,
acting against all, the haters of their King and Countrey,
whose lives are pernicious, ominous, and bloody, whose
smoake is Infamie, whose ashes filthinesse, and whose end
shall bee.

*Vermis, & umbra flagellum frigus & Ignis,
Demonis aspectus, celerum, confusio luctus.*

THEODOSIUS WINDENANKE.

Printed in the Yeere. 1648.

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RR23-a.10825



(1)

A BRIEF ANSWER,

To the most materiall heads of that strange and prodigious Remonstrance, presented to the Commons assembled at Westminster, by divers Colonels and Captaines, Nov. 16. 1648. Avowed by the Generall FAIRFAX, his Officers and Souldiers.



Al those who have discoursed of a Civill life, and all Histories are full of examples, That the King and Governours of Common-weales, if they ordaine [as necessary they must] lawes for the managing of the same, must presuppose to themselves, that all such men as are wicked, so often as they sin against these Lawes, will wish that no such were, and so oft as occasion is offered will appear for the abrogating (if possible) of those Statutes.

Fortune now standing upon the weathercock of Time, the Kings prerogative being wholly swallowed up by Parliamentary Priviledges, and the Parliaments ancient freedoms limited, subjected, and forced to kneele at the feet of his Excellency, and the supreme Councell of his Army, who conscious of their owne guilt (not imagining that his Majestie can prove so element as to remit their fore-past offences) resolve to purchase his Majesties personall ruine, (as if their feares could be stilled, were hee strangled) and to Invert and subvert both Church and Common-wealth, casting them in a mold of their own making, altering the face, and corrupting property of all things, after such manner as they Conceive most, will make for their owne safeties, honours, and profits, while his Majesty, &c. O it is too late, to cry, *Stand* to him, that even now tumbleth in the dirt, to wish his returne, who hath committed his Sailes to the mercy of the winds; but I would have those Gentlemen of the Army, whom Fortune hath advanced to the top of her unconstant wheele, where they sit enveloped with black clouds of Confusion, that Fortune's fickle as her face is blind; and that his Majesties honour is indeed theirs, in whose fall (however the Devill for the present will not let them see it) they must all assuredly perish; in the meane time the Kings Majesty

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jesſie had a view of the mad Remonſtrance, wondering (even to a-
mazement) that this Army who once Solemnly Ingaged themſelves
for his reſtoration, and to protect his Perſon and power, ſhould now
become ſuch odious Apoſtates as to declare they will ſave his life, as
the moſt grand and Capitall Delinquent, and this their perfidious
deſertion of their primary principles (though it may perhaps not
be credited by ſome) his Maſtie many moneths ſince preſag'd, nor
is it marvell that hee did darkly fore-know, though not plainly fore-
ſee this their baſe perfidiousneſſe; for as the ſmoake iſſues before the
fire flames, the lightning is ſcene before the thunder bee heard, and
the Seas ſwell before a tempeſt, ſo the mind of man (whoſe continuall
motion is an Infallible argument of a divine and Immortall eſſence)
droopes before danger, his Maſtie having of late been wholly gi-
ven up to Melancholy, very thoughtfull and muſing, but now his
feares are fallen upon him, the Monſters declare by their furious
Champing, that they intend to ſuck his Royall blood, (except hea-
ven in mercy prevent it) all which Himſelfe read in lively Charac-
ters, in their trayterous and diveliſh Remonſtrance, after peruſall
whereof and ſome ſorrowfull ſigh, the peereleſſe Prince thus ſpake
to the Reverend fathers in God, the Biſhop of London and Salisbury.

Right Reverend,
*Whereas Divine Providence hath beene my ſole Protector,
and his Almighty Power, the chief anchor whereon my hopes
and confidence did and ſhall depend, I therefore in this diſmall
and diſtracted Age, remonſtrate unto You before my departure
hence, the ſad and heavy contemplations, of my oppreſſed, and
grieved heart, occaſioned by the voice and ſentence of the Ar-
my againſt my Perſon and Family, and their reſolutions to
proceed againſt mee by way of Charge, however I ſhall ſay with
the bleſſed Pſalmiſt, and the patient Sufferer, thy Will bee
done O Lord, not mine; and ſhall endeavour to ſubmit my
will, unto the will of the Lord, that ſo I may be able to under-
goe the croſſe and type of CHRIST, in all adverſity, tribulation
and affliction whatſoever.*

*Would not this mollifie an heart of Flint, make an Indians eyes to
overflow to a deluge, and a Chriſtian to weep teares of blood. O moſt
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degenerate and unworthy *English* Nation, will you sit still and see your Pious, prudent, and uncomparable Prince, have his heart blood drill'd, by his Rebellionz irreligious subjects, if you do, may the wrath of God and Man, of Angels, and Devils, yea let all the Elements conspire to punish your monstrous Ingratitude! Ouncertaine state of Princes!

*The Scepter, and the glittering Pomp of Mace,
The head Impal'd, with honour, and renowne:
The Kingly throne, the Seat and Regall place,
Are toys that fade, at angry Fortune's frowne.
Want smiles secure, when Princely thoughts doe feele
That Feare, and Danger tread upon their heele.*

But, I have lost too much time in laments, now to our intended Answer.

Rem. Our tender regard to the Priviledges and freedome of Parliament, on which our hopes of common freedome and Right so much depend, and our late experience wh^t a difference many (even honest men) seem to have taken, and what a twining evil men have made, of our least interposing, in any Civill consideration to the Parliament, hath made us for a long time hitherto (as it should alwaies make us even to the utmost extremity) to attend in silence the Counsels, and determinations of Parliament?

A. Let the world judge, what tender regard you have had ever (since growne rampant) to the Priviledges and freedome of Parliament (even as much as you have shovne to the prerogative of the King, and the Interest of the Lords), are not their Votes now (as they have been for above this three yeeres) subject to your suffrage, these yeas, subordinate wholly to your Noes on all occasions, remember perfidious fellows, that while you had his Majesty amongst you, hurrying him up & down where you pleased made large promises, yea in your Declarations, insinuated with the people, that you would restore his Majestie, to his pristine power (marry with some limitations) and all this was found afterwards to be done on purpose, to rocke his Majestie in a seeming Security, till you found meanes to Imprison him, and then as you traitorously (now feare not to declare to depose and murder him was if your tenderess to the Priviledges of Parliament had perswaded you to purge the Houses, of no less then seventeen at once, and that only upon bare allegations, and disordered

jestie had a view of the mad Remonstrance, wondering (even to amazement) that this Army who once Solemnly Ingaged themselves for his restoration, and to protect his Person and power, should now become such odious Apostates as to declare they will hane his life, as the most grand and Capitall Delinquent, and this their perfidious desertion of their primary principles (though it may perhaps not be credited by some) his Majestie many moneths since presag'd, nor is it marvell that hee did darkly fore-know, though not plainly foresee this their base perfidiousnesse; for as the smoake issues before the fire flames, the lightning is scene before the thunder bee heard, and the Seas swell before a tempest, so the mind of man (whose continuall motion is an Infallible argument of a divine and Immortall essence) droopes before danger, his Majestie having of late been wholly given up to Melancholy, very thoughtfull and musing, but now his feares are fallen upon him, the Monsters declare by their furious Champing, that they intend to suck his Royall blood; (except heaven in mercy prevent it) all which Himselfe read in lively Characters, in their trayterous and divelish Remonstrance, after perusal whereof and some sorrowfull sigh, the peerelesse Prince thus spake to the Reverend fathers in God, the Bishop of London and Salisbury.

Right Reverend,
Whereas Divine Providence hath bene my safe Protector, and his Almighty Power, the chief anchor whereon my hopes and confidence did and shall depend, I therefore in this dismall and distracted Age, remonstrate unto you before my departure hence, the sad and heavy contemplations, of my oppressed, and griev'd heart, occasioned by the voyce and sentence of the Army against my Person and Family, and their resolutions to proceed against mee by way of Charge, however I shall say with the blessed Psalmist, and the patient Sufferer, thy Will bee done O Lord, not mine; and shall endeavour to submit my will, unto the will of the Lord, that so I may be able to undergoe the crosse and type of CHRIST, in all adversity, tribulation and affliction whatsoever.

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assertions, and even at present, is it your tender regard that compelleth you, to appoint that *Janus-fac'd* slave *Sowen*, to sit each day in the lower House as your extraordinary Agent to over-awe their Votes (thereby rendring them by an infallible prooffe, no free, but a forced constrained Parliament, the said *Sowen* the other day (by your suffrage and appointment) presuming to be so Impudently arrogant, as upon the Votes of the House, that no addition should be made to the old establishment of 2700 Men, and 60000*l.* per Moneth, to say, *That hee hoped those Gentlemen who had given their Votes in the Negative, would find out some other meanes to satisfie the Army, and take of free Quarter, for that it was no time now to discontent them.*

I wonder you are not ashamed to divulge such grosse fallacies, as these.

Rem. And though wee have taught but a few of those many morall or civill Evils, acted by the King, which have been judged Capitall in severall of his Predecessours, from whom hee claimes; yet from that alone, which is before spoken of wee may [without need of his late Implicite confession] conclude, that hee has been the Author, and continuer of a most unjust Warre, and is consequently guilty of all the Treason it containes, and of all the Innocent blood, rapine, spoyle, and mischief to the Kingdomes acted, or occasioned thereby.

Ans. Bewitched people of England! I beseech you take notice of the guiltfull Plots, and underhand workings of these Sword-men (who now intend to become Lords and Rulers over you) to give a ground for the prosecution of their damn'd designs [those evils occasioned, perpetrated and carried on with an high hand by them and their adherents, to the (now visible ruine) of the most worthy Prince, and flourishing Kingdome in the world; for which by the lawes of GGD, the law of the Land, and the light of Nature, they stand Condemn'd,] They wouldaine perswade you your Sovereigne Lord ought to suffer; for the explanation whereof briefly thus. His Majesty having called this (unhappie Parliament) and granted graciously above all his Predecessours, (as themselves have confessed) and flitting at nothing that they could in reason demand, or He in honour assent too. at length found, (by their peremptory unwarrantable and destructive requests) that they had conspired to abridge him of his just Rights, and to intrench upon his unquestionable

ble Prerogative, and so consequently (as indeed they have since proved it) the ruine of himselfe, Posterity and Subjects; to avoid therefore their dangerous designe (as also for the safety of his owne life, his Queene, and Children,) whom the Rebellious *Londoners* each day terrifi'd, protesting to pull *White-Hall* about their eares, His Majesty, with some loyall Peeres and Gentry leaves *Westminster*, retires into the Countrey, the Members (glad of the opportunity) under a pretence to provide a Guard for the security of their Persons, leavie Regiments of horse and foot, appoint them a Generall and other inferiour Officers; the King moved at their madnesse, summons his loyall Subjects, who according to their Allegiance adhere unto him; hereupon bloody warres ensue, the King and his Party fighting to preserve the ancient Constitutions, and fundamentall Lawes of *England*, the other Party, to take away all Order and Discipline, root and branch, and while they murder, rob, and ravish his Majesties faithfull Subjects, acting all mischievous villanies possibly to be imagined, buzze it in the Peoples eares, that they intended only a perfect and thorow Reformation, for the finnes and Iniquities of the people of *England*, the Lord of Hostes permits his Majesties most Righteous cause to be worsted, the Roguish mercenary *Scots* to sell him into his Enemies hands, they contrary to their Allegiance shut him up in Prison, using him most inhumanly, would faine make their Peace with him, but are terrifi'd with distrustful thoughts [for guilt is ever accompanied with feare,] that hee will never forget or forgive their Treasonable and cursed actions against him, this drives them to disgrace, and dispaire moves them, to Invent any thing be it ne're so impious and divelish, in order to their own safety, the Innocent then must suffer for the Nocent, his Majesty (O I tremble to mention it) delivered up to Justice, his Friends murdered, sequestred, banished; thus you see who hath occasioned the present, and fore-passed mischiefs; but now to shake out the filthy and most ulcerous matter in this devilish Remonstrance.

Rem. That the Capitall, and grand Author of our troubles, the person of the King by whose Commissions, Commands, and procurements, and in whose behalfe, and for whose Interest only (of Will and Power) all our warres and troubles have been (with all the miseries attending

them) may be speedily brought to Iustice, for the Treason, blood, and mischief, hee is therein guilty of?

Ans. If you were Christians and such as you pretend to the world to bee, you would rather say, that your grand and Capitall sinnes, have occasioned the late warre and bloodshed, most truculent Tigers, whose voracity and Inhumanity, no age can parrell, no history of equalize, must the evill accidents of your mischievous Rebellion, bee wiped away with a sponge made of your Soveraignes heart, a man whose Prudencie, pietie, magnanimitie, and Inimitable Sufferance is rightly stated, would proclaime him the best and most worthy of all his Predecessours, who is he that reads this your damnable demand, if hee have not exchanged Sense with a Salvage, and soule with a devill, but hath an ycie chilnesse run through all his veines, his haire stiffned to Porcupines quills, and the whole frame of his body in an ague fit, sure I dreame, this cannot bee the desire of the Lord Fairfax no, no, no.

Rem. That a timely and peremptory day may bee set, for the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Yorke, to come in and tender themselves [into some Prison] by which time (if they doe not) that then they may be immediately bee declared Incapable of any Government or trust in this Kingdom, or the Dominions thereto belonging, or of any kind of right within the same, and thence to stand exiled for ever, as enemies and Traitors and to die without mercy if ever found, and taken therein.

Ans. If men will bee villaines (I confesse) they rake of halfe their guilt, if they act like glorious, and unparallelld miscreants, hel ke then you intend no more Kings shall rainge by Succession, (what thinke you of the stallion (whom you so much reverence) the Prince Elector, would not hee make up a very illustrious shadow, were his Majestie in heaven, and the Prince and Duke his Sonnes exiled, doth this favour the least of that cause of your Covenant, which you so Solemnly swore [that the world may beare witness with our Conferences of our Loyalty, and that wee have no thoughts or Intentions to diminish, his Majesties full power and greatnesse] O perjured blood-suckers, what will you doe in the end,

FINIS.



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